



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0331

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Date: 17/04/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0331

On 20/03/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The total public complaints lodged against officers in your force's firearms unit(s), broken down by unit name and calendar year dating back to 2018.
2. The total internal complaints (known as 'conduct matters') flagged against officers in your force's firearms unit(s), broken down by unit name and calendar year dating back to 2018.
3. The current number of officers servicing in your force's firearms unit(s), and, if possible, historic staffing figures dating back to 2018.
4. The net total number of investigations launched into officers in your force's firearms unit(s) as a result of public complaints, as well as as a result of internal 'conduct matters' each year dating back to 2018.
5. The outcomes of those investigations – and in particular the number of officers dismissed as a result of those investigations – broken down by year dating back to 2018.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

In a consolidated response, please see the below tables:

Conduct Matters

Year	Total by unit	Investigations	Investigation Outcomes
2018	0	0	
2019	0	0	
2020	0	0	

2021	6 (Firearms Unit)	6	5 - Case to Answer 1 - No case to Answer
2022	1 (Firearms Unit)	1	1 - Case to Answer
2023	7 (Firearms Unit)	6	5 - No Case to Answer (of these 3 resulted in Final Written Warning) 1 - Case to Answer (resulted in Final Written Warning)

Complaints

Year	Total by unit	Investigations	Investigation Outcomes
2018	1 (Firearms Unit) 4 (Firearms Licensing)	1	1 - Not Upheld - by PSD
2019	6 (Firearms Unit)	0	
2020	36 (Firearms Unit)	0	
2021	68 (Firearms Unit)	8	5 - The service provided was acceptable 3 - The service provided was not acceptable
2022	51 (Firearms Unit)	11	9 - The service provided was acceptable 1 - No case to answer 1 - Unknown
2023	31 (Firearms Unit) 1 (Firearms Licensing)	0	

With regard to question 3, this information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemptions apply:

Section 21 – Information reasonably accessible by other means

The above exemption is absolute and class-based and therefore no Public Interest Test or Harm Test is required.

The information that you have requested is already reasonably accessible to you by other means and is therefore exempt by virtue of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The number of Firearms Officers broken down by Force is published on the Home Office website via the following link:

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary